

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Thirty-Third Session will be held on Wednesday, 5th October, 1927, at the GUILDHALL.

Afternoon.—Assemble at the main entrance to the Guildhall at 3 p.m. for a tour of the Guildhall buildings, Art Gallery, Museum, etc., after which the Association will be entertained to tea by kind invitation of the City Corporation.

Evening.—The Inaugural Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall at 6.30 p.m. Dr. G. H. Locke, M.A., Chief Librarian of Toronto, and the immediate Past-President of the American Library Association will give an address on "Canadian literature and its relationship to American and British Literature." The Chair will be taken, it is hoped, by the Lord Mayor of London, the Right Hon. Sir G. Rowland Blades, Bart., M.P., J.P.

All those who intend to be present at the afternoon meeting must notify Mr. R. D. Hilton Smith, Public Library, Richmond, Surrey, not later than Saturday, October 1st, in order that adequate arrangements may be made for tea.

Essay Competition.—We are very pleased to give particulars of a prize essay competition which will interest many members, particularly the younger assistants. Mr. G. F. Vale, the President of the A.A.L., is offering a prize of a guinea (to be spent on books chosen by the winner) for the best essay on the Departmental Report. The only condition is that the winning essay shall be read by the writer at the January meeting of the Association. The judges are the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Editor. All essays should be signed by pseudonym only, and should be enclosed in a sealed envelope. The full name and library address, together with the pseudonym used, should

be enclosed *in a separate envelope*, and the whole sent to the Hon Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.1., not later than November 30th.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind, on Wednesday, September 14th, at 6.30 p.m.

The Departmental Report is becoming a "best-seller" at H.M.S.O., for thousands of copies have been sold. This keen public interest is very heartening. The press notices have been extraordinary, in bulk and in uniformity. We have received armfuls of newspaper cuttings from all over the country and the great majority of them say the same things over and over again. We hope this will not be said of the many discussions we are promised on the subject. Of course, nobody can deny that the Report is very useful, but we must confess to great disappointment with its recommendations. We heartily agree with every line of Mr. Pacy's reservation concerning the need for central control for the London Libraries. There is no doubt that the Committee were greatly hampered by the psychological effect of the economy axe suspended over the head of every department. They were probably well aware of the shortcomings of their proposals, but a Fabian belief in the inevitability of gradualness must have been responsible for their cautious attitude towards all real reform. The grim irony of it is that a grouping together of London's libraries would undoubtedly result in a more economical expenditure *with greater efficiency*! Your true economist always misses the point. We cheerfully pay millions of pounds annually towards curing sickness, but growl like the very devil when we are asked to pay a few thousands towards new methods for preventing disease. However, the Report will be a landmark in the history of our profession and we must make the most of it. The generous attitude of the Committee towards the efforts of the Library Association to encourage technical education, our endeavours to render public service, etc., is encouraging, to say the least. The Report will undoubtedly have a great affect on public and Governmental opinion.

With this number is printed the results of the last **L. A. Examinations**. As before, the percentage of passes is very small in Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6. "Honours" and "Merits" are exceedingly scarce. Students who took the A.A.L. Correspondence Classes have done very well on the whole, and their success reflects great credit on themselves and their tutors. It will be seen that A.A.L. students have gained more than 50 per cent. of the "Honours" and "Merit" places. We congratulate the students who have worked hard enough to gain these distinctions, for their scarcity makes them doubly valuable.

We should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Council, of thanking the tutors, whose enthusiasm and hard work have had such successful results.

The percentage of failures in Section 6 (Library Routine) is abnormally high ; yet, so far as recollection goes, the papers were of quite average difficulty !

The New Committees. The Committees of the Council for the ensuing year have been elected as follows : Finance and General Purposes.—Mr. R. Cooper (Chairman), Miss L. Fairweather, Messrs. R. Bullen, W. E. Hurford, R. Lynn, V. Woods, and F. E. Sandry (Hon. Secretary). Press and Publications.—Miss G. Rees (Chairman), Miss E. Gerard, Messrs. A. Austing, I. Briggs, H. M. Cashmore, K. G. Hunt, and F. S. Smith (Hon. Secretary), Education and Library.—Mr. F. T. Bussey (Chairman), Miss Exley, Messrs. G. Hayward, F. Haigh, T. W. Muskett, J. G. O'Leary, Miss Toms (Hon. Librarian), and Mr. R. D. H. Smith (Hon. Secretary). Classes for Assistants.—Mr. F. E. Sandry (Chairman), The President, Vice-President, Hon. Editor, Hon. Secretary, Miss Exley (Hon. Secretary), Mr. R. D. H. Smith, and one representative to be delegated from each Division. Benevolent Fund.—President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Fairweather, Miss G. Rees, Messrs. R. Cooper and R. Bullen.

Corrigenda.—We regret that owing to unavoidable delay the issue of the June and July numbers had to be so rushed that the proof reading was scamped. We ask members who file their copies, to be good enough to make the following corrections, and we apologise to the writers of the various articles, etc., for these irritating errors :—

JUNE.—Page 126, line 25 from top, for *enormously* be read *enormously* by.
 Page 129, line 11 from bottom, for *tragic phantom* read *tragic phantom*.
 Page 135, line 9 from bottom, for *readers* read *reader's*.
 Page 136, line 1 from top, for *not in the least* read *not the least*.
 Page 137, line 10 from top, for *It seems* read *It seems*.
 Page 137, line 17 from top, for *for all important* read *the all important*.
 Page 141, line 7 from top, for *was deliver* read *was delivered*.
 Page 143, line 16 from top, for *St. Bridge* read *St. Bride*.

JULY.—Page 155, line 16 from top, for *future is young* read *future is yours*.
 Page 156, line 6 from top, for *included* read *include*.
 Page 156, line 8 from top, for *phrase* read *phase*.
 Page 156, line 17 from top, for *Keat's* read *Keats's*.
 Page 157, line 13 from top, for *member of non-member* read *member or non-member*.
 Page 157, line 20 from bottom, for *far more than* read *far more space than*.
 Page 158, line 3 from top, for *member's poems* read *members' poems*.
 Page 158, line 4 from top, for *included* read *included*.
 Page 158, line 31 from bottom, for *were by general* read *was by general*.
 Page 158, line 30 from bottom, for *their own* read *its own*.
 Page 158, line 22 from bottom, for *nativealism* read *naturalism*.
 Page 165, for *Gentlemens' match* read *Gentlemen's match*.

HONOUR FOR GLOUCESTER CITY LIBRARIAN.

Mr. Roland Austin, the Gloucester City Librarian, on Saturday, 2nd July, received the degree of Master of Arts, "honoris causa," at a convocation of the University of Bristol, over which Viscount Haldane of Cloan, Chancellor of the University, presided.

In presenting Mr. Austin, Professor J. E. V. Crofts, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, said the contributions made by him to Gloucestershire history, including the history of Bristol, were well-known to all serious students of the subject. As City Librarian of Gloucester, Mr. Austin had built up a remarkable collection of material illustrative of the city's early history, and as Secretary of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society had done much to stimulate and co-ordinate the work of other researchers in the same important field.

It is well known that the collection of Gloucestershire Literature in the possession of the City Library is one of the finest in the kingdom—a fact to which testimony is borne by the Grant which the Carnegie Trustees have made towards the printing of a Catalogue of this collection. It is a matter of more than local interest to the profession that the work of Mr. Austin has thus received such signal recognition. All who know him tender very sincere congratulations.

D. W. H.

The Ilford Central Public Library, as reported in the last number of the **LIBRARY ASSISTANT**, was opened to the public on June 9th. A main corridor 8 feet wide leads directly to the Reference Department; and on the right of the corridor are the Newsroom, the Juvenile Department and the Adult Lending Department in the order given, as one proceeds from the street. Behind the Reference Department are the staff work rooms, librarian's office, and the caretakers' store rooms.

The Newsroom has seats for 58 readers; the Juvenile Department accommodates 40 readers at tables and has shelving for over 3,000 books; the Adult Library has shelving for 20,000 volumes; and the Reference Department with 2,500 volumes has separate tables for 24 students. The basement forms a book store with shelving for 16,000 books.

With the exception of the Newsroom all departments are top lighted. The main corridor is laid with rubber tiles for quietness, and the whole of the wood furnishing in the public rooms is of polished Austrian oak. The island book stacks in the Adult Lending Department are of steel.

It is interesting to note that the whole of the fittings in the Juvenile Department (apart from the wall cases) are movable and, with the electric fitting at hand, the room is readily converted into a lecture hall with lantern facilities.

"Open access" is in operation in all departments, including the Reference Department. The radiating book stack system is installed in the Lending Department, and the Juvenile Department is newsroom and lending department combined.

The rules and regulations afford the utmost facilities for the use of all departments.—A. T. AUSTING.

We heartily congratulate **Mr. R. D. Hilton Smith** on his recent appointment as Branch Librarian at Croydon. Mr. Hilton Smith has served the Association on the Council with such energy and efficiency that we feel sure that everybody will join with us in wishing him a happy career at Croydon.

Hull Central Library is to be extended at a cost of £17,000. The motion was carried by 33 votes to 8, and was the occasion of much debate at the Council meeting. Many Councillors wished, of course, to defer the project, but Mr. Councillor Johnson answered them very effectively by saying that it was very disconcerting to have to fight for a proposal so reasonable. He reminded the Council of the necessity of remembering the credit side of the ledger as well as the debit. Hull City is to be congratulated on the defenders of its educational movements. We wish that Middlesbrough (where the Council recently refused a gift of £1,000 to be spent on books, owing to the condition of the grant being that they should increase the salaries of their libraries staff) possessed a few Councillors of similar spirit and outlook.

Liverpool Libraries Committee have recently innovated one of the finest newsroom schemes ever planned. The problem of the unemployed workman, whose enforced leisure is often spent in the Newsroom, but who should be always in close touch with the Labour Exchanges, is one of great importance in a city like Liverpool, where many of the unemployed are dock labourers whose work is casual and temporary.

The Newsroom recently opened in Christian Street, Liverpool, is handsomely decorated, and is in telephonic communication with the Labour Exchanges, and, in the words of Sir Archibald Salvidge, "does for the working-man what the commercial reference library is doing for the business man."

A DISAPPOINTING REPORT.

By J. P. LAMB,

Chief Librarian, City of Sheffield Public Libraries.

The publication of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries provides an interesting commentary on the position of the public libraries of this country in the public mind. The contrast between the publicity achieved by, for example, the report of the Departmental Committee on Secondary Education and the almost universal neglect of that of the Libraries Committee surely provides an object lesson for librarianship. It proves the need for a strong forward policy, for the establishment of an intelligent library leadership, and for new methods of publicity. It is a telling indictment of the ineffectiveness of public librarianship in this country.

It may be taken as a fundamental of success for the public library movement that public opinion should be educated in its appreciation.

Without this, the movement must remain a debating ground for the idealists, a luxury to the industrialists, and at best a department of the municipal service to be tolerated rather than encouraged.

One had hoped that the Report of the Departmental Committee would aid in this by giving a clear lead to public library policy. At first glance the mere bulk of the Report gave it a welcome appearance of authority. The first hasty examination seemed to confirm this view, and it was only after one had laboured painfully through its tedious platitudes that the melancholy realisation came that here was no blazed trail leading to newer vistas, but only a reiteration of what is already common knowledge in the library world, and suggestions which, when not reactionary, carry librarianship little or no further than a point already attained. The whole work breathes a spirit of library service which, if not actually buried, one hoped might have been regarded as quite decently dead.

The Report, as a whole, obviously suffers from the lack of even an elementary knowledge of public library conditions on the part of the majority of the Committee, which neither the expert members nor the persons and bodies called upon to give evidence appear to have been able to illumine.

The first thing to which most librarians naturally turned was the attitude of the Committee to the question of the transfer of the Library Authority to the Education Authority. One can congratulate the Committee on the decision that the transfer "Would involve more loss than gain" even if it is difficult to appreciate either the logic or the consistency of the arguments advanced in its favour. "If the Library system were now being set up for the first time," the Committee record their belief that "there is much to be said in favour of the view taken by the Adult Education Committee," (*i.e.*, transfer to the Education Authority). Later in the Report the Committee advance the view that a new conception of the function of the Education Authority is necessary before such a change could be contemplated. Now these two sentences are directly contradictory in view of the anomalous position created by the 1919 Act, and two implications follow. Either the Committee believe that County Education authorities, now being library authorities, do in fact administer education on Platonic lines (which is nonsense); or they should logically have recommended that the County Library Authority be divorced from the Education Authority by the repeal of that portion of the 1919 Act. One looks in vain for such a recommendation. It seems that the decision is one not of principle but of expediency; the transfer would "chill the zeal and enthusiasm of librarians." It is incredible that the only ground on which the libraries can justify—and justify magnificently—their independence, was not brought to the notice of the Committee. Only by divorce from formal education in any form can the public library approach and attract that vast mass of the public untouched and even repelled by any form of conscious education.

It is this public that provides the public library with its greatest task, and it is this fundamental aspect of the work which the Report, in its solicitude for the student reader, consistently neglects.

The remainder of Chapter II calls for little comment except perhaps the sections dealing with Newsrooms and Staff. At a time when Mr. H. G. Wells considers that there are only two newspapers of value in the world, it is rather surprising to find the Report stressing the importance of the newsroom. The paragraphs dealing with professional training make astonishing reading. The tone of these sections implies that professional training can easily be acquired by any person of normal intelligence, and a naïve invitation is given to library authorities to appoint untrained graduates to the more important positions. The inspiring examples of the British Museum and the Bodleian are offered in support of this proposal. Now while it is true that a wide education is essential to a librarian, it is equally true that a great deal more than this is required for the successful administration of a library. And one can here express a doubt as to whether the possession of a pass degree (except perhaps a London external) connotes either a wide education or anything more than a normal intelligence. The professions are stocked with persons from the Universities of distinctly mediocre mental attainments whose preferment is due to economic conditions rather than ability, and conversely, there are in the library profession many men of marked ability, who have graduated in the greater university of books.

It would be contrary to the best interests of Librarianship to attempt to surround the profession with a fence that only a university training could surmount. The tendency, so noticeable in this country, to apply the methods of the trade union to professions is one that should be strongly resisted in the interests of those persons whose inability to acquire a University qualification is due not to lack of natural or acquired intelligence, but to social conditions which they are powerless to combat. One's sense of social justice is outraged by any attempt to create ringed professions available only for the sons and daughters of the comparatively well-to-do.

The error into which the Report falls, is in assuming a parallel between the standard of librarianship required for the national book museums and for a municipal library. The type of work performed in the Bodleian is entirely dissimilar from that of a public library, and a scheme of training which might be beneficial for the one would be disastrous to the other. The modern public library is moving more and more away from the collecting type of library, catering almost wholly for the student. It has to reach a new public and re-align its methods, its book stocks, and its outlook accordingly. Any scheme of training in librarianship should be based on tuition in professional subjects common to all types of librarianship, on which should be superimposed specialised training for various types of library activity. With this should go a realisation that the basis of library work is not merely

theoretical training, but the practical application of that training to the varied interests which the administration of large collections of books entails ; to the special methods called into being by the co-ordination of units in large library systems ; and to the psychological problems created in the attempt to attract, retain, and improve the intelligence of large masses of people to whom compulsory education has given little but the ability to decipher print, and a distaste for formal education in any form.

The chapter dealing with an organised national service is the most interesting part of a singularly innocuous Report. The main principles, though not sufficiently far reaching, are good, but they lack the motive power of compulsion. The Committee have a pathetic and quite unwarranted faith in local authorities ; and a tenderness towards the National Exchequer which Big Business should welcome with enthusiasm. From a national Government pouring out 40 million pounds a year in the name of education, they ask timidly for £12,000 a year for libraries. For this sum the Public libraries would have a Central Loan Library on which to draw for books of a specialised nature which even the most advanced libraries cannot hope to stock. No one can quarrel with the idea of this Central Library ; it has already become, through the work of the existing Central Library for Students, an essential part of the library provision of the country. Allied to this are somewhat nebulous Regional Libraries, which are to allot to themselves regional districts by means of voluntary co-operation. Voluntary co-operation has a pleasant and familiar flavour to library workers, but its practical value is exceedingly dubious. One can venture a prophecy that this portion of the Report, valuable though it is in its first hint of a national scheme, will remain a dead letter.

One would wish that the Committee had taken their courage in both hands, and formulated a definite scheme for a national system to be accomplished by easy stages. The first essential would be a grouping of the country into Regional areas around large library centres by industrial and economic factors and without reference to arbitrary boundaries of county, borough, and county borough now existing.

Any scheme for a national service, involving as it does area co-operation between urban districts with some vital common basis of action, must fail to provide maximum efficiency if its range is to be circumscribed by existing library areas and by the anomalies resulting from administration by areas grouped by geographical rather than social and industrial conditions. The Committee recognise this vital principle in suggesting the overlapping of Birmingham and Manchester into two or more counties. But the lack of compulsion in their recommendations enforces the recognition of the existing areas, and it is precisely in this direction that the suggestion remains impracticable. The Regional Library in a real scheme would be more than a mere British Museum in miniature ; it would administer the whole of its area, in conjunction with a series of smaller libraries which might

conveniently be called District Libraries. The District Libraries again would each have a clearly defined sphere of action and from the District Libraries would radiate a series of Depot Libraries with Travelling Libraries for the more remote hamlets. It is possible to envisage a library scheme peculiarly suitable for areas grouped by economic factors, with the most remote of their inhabitants served by a library within an appreciable distance of their homes. The vital question of finance would be simplified by the imposition of a flat rate over the whole area, on the presumption that something approaching an equal form of library service would be offered throughout the area.

It is obvious that such a scheme would abolish the County as a Library authority. It is quite clear that the administrative county is inherently unsuitable for the work, in that its administration constantly labours under the physical handicap of distance. Areas contingent on county boroughs, boroughs, or even urban districts, would be better served from those libraries than from a county town; and a district grouped as suggested would be a much more effective unit than the rambling administrative area of the county, which attempts to cater for varying groups of population left outside the more self-contained urban units. Were a form of Regional co-operation as suggested by the Report accomplished, it would result in a loosely related group of libraries, each stipulating some peculiar privilege of co-operation, and one and all demanding a service from the Regional Library, and offering little in return. On the other hand, compulsory administration by Library Area as here suggested, with Regional, District, and Depot and Travelling Libraries drawing on stock close at hand, under expert direction from a staff having an intimate acquaintance with district needs, and with an equitable system of finance, would solve the problems attendant on a library system which has grown haphazard by the utilisation of the administrative machinery of areas having, from a library point of view, no common denominator on which to base an efficient book service.

The gravest defect of the Report lies in its inability to realise the fundamentals of the work of the public library. Rarely is the ordinary borrower mentioned. In its enthusiasm for the student reader, the Report reverts to the attitude of mind of the supporters of the first Library Act in assuming a demand for types of books which in fact are rarely called for. The real problems of the municipal libraries, the greatest and most important part of the whole library movement, are either misunderstood or neglected. The Report takes librarianship back to the times when a great, indigestible mass of books collected together and labelled Reference Library, was assumed to represent the only form of culture the municipal library need provide.

There are, however, certain sections of the Report out of which Librarians, by a careful study of statistics, can draw some useful conclusions, which might conveniently form a basis of discussion at professional meetings during the coming session.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATIONS.

(LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.)

* Those marked with an asterisk thus * are Students who took the A.A.L. Correspondence Courses.

SECTION I.—LITERARY HISTORY.

97 Candidates sat. Honours, 1; Merits, 1; Passes, 55.

Honours.

Austin, Miss M. F., Sheffield.

Merits.

Cooper, F. J., Portsmouth.

Passes.

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| Adey, F. C., Manchester. | Healing, Miss W. J., Hove. |
| * Asman, Miss W., Birmingham. | * Hill, Miss A. B., Birmingham. |
| Bowley, Miss V. E., Hounslow. | * Hughes, Miss W., Birmingham. |
| Bridge, Miss D. G., Ipswich. | * Ingall, Miss I. E., Birmingham. |
| Callan, Miss M. S., Glasgow. | Isaac, Miss G., Cardiff. |
| Carter, Miss P. G., Holloway. | Jackson, L. C., Chesterfield. |
| Cashmore, Miss M. K., Birmingham. | Johnson, Miss L. A., Fulham. |
| Chorlton, Miss J. M., Manchester. | * Lee, F., Nelson. |
| Clark, G. H. G., Bethnal Green. | Macdonald, J. H., Bradford. |
| Cronshaw, F. E., Oldham. | McEwan, Miss C. R., Glasgow. |
| * Darbey, B. C., Wolverhampton. | Mildon, Miss E. L. S., Bristol. |
| Davies, I., Bolton. | Musgrave, C. W., Croydon. |
| Dawes, Miss M., Bradford. | * Norris, Miss D. M., Birmingham. |
| Donkin, Miss W. C., Newcastle-on-Tyne. | Ollerton, Miss I. E., Hove. |
| Dowdy, Miss A. C., Ipswich. | Pearce, T. D., St. Helens. |
| Emslie, G. C., Glasgow. | Reynolds, J. D., Leeds. |
| Evans, Miss M., Bristol. | * Roberts, Miss E. E., Kidderminster. |
| Fairhurst, A. C., Wigan. | Russ, Miss E. A., Bath. |
| Ferrand, Miss E. M., Manchester. | Schletter, Miss H. E., Buckingham Gate, S.W. |
| Gaskin, G., Walthamstow. | Thorold, Miss D. M., Ipswich. |
| Gemmell, Miss M. L., Glasgow. | Tooth, A. E., Birmingham. |
| * Goodwin, Miss A. M., Birmingham. | Turner, Miss M. N., Glasgow. |
| Graham, Miss J. G., Glasgow. | Ure, Miss I. M., Glasgow. |
| Gross, Miss E. J. A., Birmingham. | Waites, H. E., Fulham. |
| Hamilton, Miss A. G., Glasgow. | Waterhouse, Miss E. A., Bradford. |
| Hampton, S. A. J., Bermondsey. | Whiteley, H. E., Grimsby. |
| Hancock, Miss D., Sheffield. | Wilson, Miss K. S., Glasgow. |
| * Harvey, Miss H. M., Aberystwyth. | |

SECTION II.—BIBLIOGRAPHY.

40 Candidates sat. Honours, 2; Merits, 5; Passes, 20.

Honours.

* Allday, Miss O. M., Birmingham. * Newland, G. A., Limehouse.

Merits.

* Beattie, Miss M., Kingston-on-Thames.	* Thomas, R. N., Poplar.
Ferguson, Miss F. W., Glasgow.	* White, S., Liverpool.
Horrocks, S., Manchester.	

Austin, Miss C. A., Gloucester.
 Baker, Miss C. A., Ealing.
 *Bone, Miss B. C., Birmingham.
 Burnett, J. A., Sunderland.
 *Cooks, Miss K. M., Birmingham.
 *Davies, J. H., Birmingham.
 Evans, Miss W. A., Birmingham.
 Francis, Miss M. I., Manchester.
 Govier, Miss D. N., Birmingham.
 Griffiths, Miss O. E., Birmingham.

Passes.

McKinnon, J., Glasgow.
 Mason, F. T. B., Westminster.
 *Muskett, T. W., Huddersfield.
 Oldaker, L. T., Birmingham.
 Purdue, Miss E. M., Hove.
 Sayell, R. C., Watford.
 Skinner, Miss E., Newport, Mon.
 Stevens, F. J., Middlesbrough.
 Swift, J., Bolton.
 Wilson, J. L., Hackney.

SECTION III.—CLASSIFICATION.

107 Candidates sat. Honours, 0; Merits, 1; Passes, 36.

Leggatt, D. R., Dorchester.

*Merits.**Passes.*

*Austin, J. H., Bournemouth.
 Bailey, Miss W. L., Lowestoft.
 Barnes, R. B., Manchester.
 Bennett, C., Warrington.
 *Chivers, H., Kidderminster.
 Coe, Miss N., Kettering.
 Cooper, Miss E. K., Norwich.
 *Etchells, Miss D., Derby.
 Fergusson, Miss B. M., Bath.
 Foley, D., Dublin.
 Gayton, Miss W. M., Nottingham.
 Gilliam, J., Croydon.
 Gregory, L., Manchester.
 Hesketh-Williams, Miss P. K., Cheltenham.
 Hill, Miss G. A., Bath.
 *Jacka, Miss S., Sunderland.
 Johnson, Miss W. M., Coventry.
 Jones, Miss E. L., Aberystwyth.
 Kraan, Mrs. M., Worksop.

Langton, Miss K. A., Liverpool.
 McLardy, Miss D., Manchester.
 Neve, Miss M. E., Bournemouth.
 Nichols, Miss K. M., Cheltenham.
 Parker, G. C. J., Hammersmith.
 *Paterson, Miss J. H., Birmingham.
 Peck, J. E., Greenwich.
 Peters, Miss E. M., Cardiff.
 Pritchard, Miss D., Liverpool.
 Purdie, J. B., Glasgow.
 Reed, E. O., Coventry.
 *Stonebridge, A. J. D., St. Marylebone.
 Thomson, Miss E. A. M., Croydon.
 Thorne, Miss W. K., St. Bride's Institute.
 Tooth, A. E., Birmingham.
 *Watkins, A. H., Gainsborough.
 *Wisker, E., Fulham.

SECTION IV.—CATALOGUING.

118 Candidates sat. Honours, 0; Merits, 0; Passes, 55.

Passes.

Andrews, Miss E. R., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 *Atkinson, F., Warrington.
 Ballantyne, Miss J., Great Crosby.
 Batchelor, R. A., Wallasey.
 Bennett, F. G. L., St. Pancras.
 Bigington, L. J., Clapham.
 Bishop, W. J., Royal College of Physicians.
 *Bryant, E. S. A., Bournemouth.
 Christian, Miss M., Glasgow.
 Dean, Miss I. L., Watford.
 Duff, Miss M. E., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ellis, Miss C. J., Hayle, Cornwall.
 Fearnley, Miss I. C., Birkenhead.
 Flegg, Miss G. M., Ipswich.
 Forsyth, J. W., Edinburgh.
 Gee, Miss M., Birkenhead.
 Harrison, Miss M., Manchester.
 Hill, T., Bolton.
 *Holman, Miss L. R., Middlesbrough.
 Ingram, Miss F. E., Woolwich.
 Jacka, Miss S., Sunderland.
 Kerr, Miss H., Glasgow.
 Lawler, Miss B. P., Liverpool.
 Leighton, Miss D., Stockport.
 Lingard, Miss C. A., Manchester.

- Macdonald, Miss E. M., Sheffield.
 McGill, Miss H. M., Manchester.
 *Maddocks, Miss E. D., Wolverhampton.
 Milburn, Miss F. L., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Mollett, Miss G. E., Bournemouth.
 Naylor, H., Bolton.
 Pilling, Miss K. E., Liverpool.
 Pottinger, M. C., Glasgow.
 Pugsley, W. C., Bath.
 Purcell, Miss E. O., Cardiff.
 Rooksby, Miss E. D., Cardiff.
 Russell, D. H., Glasgow.
 *Shaw, Miss B., Wakefield.
 *Sherwood, J., Huddersfield.
 Smithson, Miss E. L., Birmingham.
- Stapleton, Miss D., Liverpool.
 Stevenson, W. B., Wallasey.
 Steward, A. V., Norwich.
 Taylor, Miss P. M., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 *Thompson, A., Ilkley.
 Thomson, Miss E. A. M., Croydon.
 Todd, Miss E. M., Liverpool.
 Tompkins, H. C., Hornsey.
 Wells, Miss N. E., Bath.
 West, Miss E. K., Croydon.
 Wigley, Miss F. E., Manchester.
 Williams, Miss M. G., Aberystwyth.
 *Wisker, E., Fulham.
 Woodham, W. H., Wood Green.
 Wright, Miss C. L., Leicester.

SECTION V.—LIBRARY ORGANIZATION.

86 Candidates sat. Honours, 0; Merits, 0; Passes, 27.

Passes.

- Bennett, B., Bournemouth.
 Bradley, Miss M., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Carberry, E., Dublin.
 Carnell, Miss E. J., Exeter.
 Carr, J. A., Liverpool.
 Edwards, Miss E. H., Aberystwyth.
 Ellis, Miss C. J., Hayle, Cornwall.
 Hesketh-Williams, Miss P. K., Cheltenham.
 Howarth, A., Bolton.
 Marsh, Miss M., Darlington.
 Minto, C. S., Edinburgh.
 Murphy, Miss M., Liverpool.
 Nichols, Miss K. M., Cheltenham.
 Oxbury, Miss D. G., Norwich.
- Pearson, Miss E. L., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Pyman, Miss E. E., Ipswich.
 Riches, J. E., Croydon.
 Ryder, Miss M., Railway Mechanics Institute, Horwich.
 Seanson, J., Glasgow.
 Shepherd, M., Bolton.
 Simpson, E., Sheffield.
 Speight, Miss P. M., Johannesburg.
 Stevens, F. J., Middlesbrough.
 Tillie, Miss H. A., Kensington.
 Walker, J. M., Sheffield.
 Webster, Miss E. M., Dundee.
 Williams, E. S., Durham.

SECTION VI.—LIBRARY ROUTINE.

145 Candidates sat. Honours, 0; Merits, 1; Passes, 32.

Merits.

- *Govier, Miss D. N., Birmingham.

Passes.

- *Appleby, Miss P., Richmond.
 Armstrong, Miss E., Glasgow.
 Bebbington, J., Bolton.
 Bennett, C., Warrington.
 Bradley, Miss M., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Brown, T., Edinburgh.
 Carberry, E., Dublin.
 Cooper, Miss A. H., Norwich.
- D'Arcy, L., Dublin.
 Drury, Miss D. G., Sheffield.
 Evans, Miss E. J. A., Coventry.
 Fleming, J. J., Belfast.
 Halbert, Miss J. F., Glasgow.
 Hall, J. G., Hull.
 *Hobby, W. J., Chelsea.
 Jenkins, Miss M., Widnes.
 Lythgoe, Miss F. M., Liverpool.

Martin, J., Edinburgh.
 Moore, Miss H. M., Johannesburg.
 Parry, Miss E. J., Cheltenham.
 Pearson, Miss A., Birmingham.
 Roe, Miss H., Lavighis, Ireland.
 Sherwood, Miss E. L., Coventry.
 *Shipton, Miss S. A., Richmond.
 Snaith, Miss M., Carlisle.

Stanswood, Miss C., Portsmouth.
 Sutherland, Miss T. E., Glasgow.
 Taylor, Miss M. S., Coventry.
 Walford, A. J., Stoke Newington.
 Wells, G. R., Wimbledon.
 Winterflood, R. C., Chiswick.
 Woodhams, Miss I., Maidstone.

CLASSES FOR ASSISTANTS. 1927-1928.

Classes for Assistants will be held for the Session 1927-1928 on the same conditions as during last session. Will students please note :—

1. Classes are available to all members of the A.A.L.
2. Fee is 12s. 6d. per course per member.
3. In the Divisions, applications for membership should be made to the Honorary Secretary of the Division; outside the Divisions applications should be made direct to the Hon. Secretary of the Classes for Assistants Committee (Miss E. M. Exley, St. Marylebone Public Library, Town Hall, Gloucester Place, London, W.1.)
4. *All applications must be made to the Secretaries by October 12th, 1927.*
 Will Secretaries of the Divisions forward their lists and fees to the Hon. Secretary, Classes for Assistants Committee, as soon as possible after October 12th, so that the classes may begin strictly to time.

LIST OF TUTORS.

- Section 1.* Mr. T. C. Kemp (Mid. Div.), Mr. A. Rennie (N.E. Div.).
Section 2. Mr. Pearson (N.E. Div.), Mr. H. Woodbine (Mid. Div.).
Section 3. Mr. G. L. Burton (Mid. Div.), Mr. T. W. Muskett (Yorks. Div.).
Section 4. Mr. F. Haigh (Yorks. Div.), Mr. F. J. Patrick (Mid. Div.).
Section 5. Mr. B. Claussion (N.W. Div.), Mr. C. Jackson (Mid. Div.).
Section 6. Mr. L. Chubb (Mid. Div.), Mr. Cochran (N.W. Div.), Mr. F. A. Richards (N.E. Div.).

DATES OF CLASSES.

October 31—November 14.	February 6—February 20.
November 14—November 28.	February 20—March 5.
November 28—December 12.	March 5—March 19.
December 12—January 9.	March 19—April 2.
January 9—January 23.	April 2—April 16.
January 23—February 6.	April 16—April 30.

OUR LIBRARY.

- The Appreciation of Sculpture. By Lorado Taft. Chicago. American Library Association. (Reading with a Purpose Series).
 The Stars. By Harlow Shapley. Chicago. American Library Association. (Reading with a Purpose Series).

The American Library Association continues this series of reading pamphlets, which has been noticed here before.

Mr. Lorado Taft is known in this country as the historian of American sculpture. In the pamphlet under review he defines the art, and touching historically upon one or two names, proceeds to give a list of books for reading. It is impossible to regard his choice as happy or particularly well-informed. Mr. Taft is too much concerned with the "Message" of art, and throughout the pamphlet there is an atmosphere of goading and urging which will never

send people to look at sculpture nor to read about it. The beauty of the "Discolobus" cannot be explained, and unless the emotion it evokes is spontaneous the result is no more than a conscious, priggish attitude towards art—an attitude which encourages bronze casts of the Venus de Milo and allows the modern artist to live in obscurity or paint portraits.

Professor Shapley's "The Stars" is on firmer ground than the appreciation of forms of imaginative expression. The present writer is completely ignorant of astronomy and may claim to see this pamphlet from the point of view of the man in the street. The pamphlet appears to contain those generalities which would prove useful to an untrained student first approaching the subject. Further, the manner of writing is sincere and has none of the "I must put this into plain English" feeling which always repels interest. I have read a number of these pamphlets and Professor Shapley's appears to me to be among the best.

J. G. O'L.

RECEIVED.

(Reports and Pamphlets.)

The Cheltenham Quarterly, No. 3, June.

Coventry Public Library: Readers' Bulletin, July-August.

Halifax Readers' Guide to the Public Libraries, June and July.

Ipswich Library Journal, July, 1927.

A feature of this useful bulletin is the special articles it contains by local contributors. Details are also given of gramophone recitals at the Library.

Kingston-upon-Thames. Annual Report, 1926-7.

Our former Honorary Editor has inserted in his report a very important paragraph dealing with the urgent necessity of increasing the book fund. We, too, think that the finest extension work that can be undertaken is the extension of the Book Fund.

Ontario Library Association Meetings for 1927.

Port Elizabeth Public Library, South Africa: Quarterly Guide for Readers, April.

We take this opportunity of congratulating the Librarian, Mr. F. W. Cooper, on the excellent selection of books noted in these pages. We are particularly glad to see a "French Literature" section, and incidentally wonder if Mr. Cooper makes his assistants learn Afrikaans. We have seen a book, "Afrikaans in 30 Lessons," but it does not look so easy as the title leads one to suppose. It would be interesting to know if the modern Afrikaanse literature is very extensive. Stanley Paul and Co., by the way, recently published the first Afrikaans novel to be translated into English, Marie Linde's "Among Privileged People."

Middlesex County Libraries: a five years' review, 1922-1927.

An extremely able report, of great interest to all County Librarians. Capt. Wright's County is largely suburban, so that his problems have differed considerably from those met with by the County Librarian of, say, Cornwall. We understand that in many districts the activities of the County Library have created a genuine demand for district libraries. The work accomplished can be gauged by the fact that in 1923 107,000 books were issued, while in 1926 this had increased to 616,000!

Norwich Archaeological Society. Literature relating to Norfolk and Norwich archaeology, 1926, by Geo. A. Stephen, F.L.A.

Richmond (Surrey) Public Library: 46th Annual Report, 1926-7.

Wigan Public Libraries. Bye-Laws and Regulations as to Libraries, 1927.

These new bye-laws should be of great interest to students and librarians. Some attempt has been made to deal with the "betting crowd" in the Newsroom, and facilities for the special borrowing of reference books have been incorporated in the regulations.

A.L.A. Bulletins, June and July.
The Library, June.

Contains special lists of "Summer" books.

The Book Window : a quarterly, issued by W. H. Smith and Son. (3d.).

This promises to be not only a most enjoyable magazine, but also one which will be of great use to all who deal with books. It gives news of books to be published, discusses those that have been published, and contains reports of interviews with famous writers. There is in this number an article by Ambrose Heal on bookshelves, and the first instalment of a history of English literature by G. P. B. Mais. It is the sort of thing many of our borrowers want, particularly when they borrow from libraries which do not issue bulletins and printed catalogues. Mr. H. G. Wells thinks *The Book Window* might help to stop "that pernicious habit of borrowing;" we hope that it won't do that, but it might help to stop that bovine habit of unintelligent borrowing.

The Countryman : a quarterly (No 2). 2s. 6d. Obtainable from the Editor, J. W. Robertson Scott, Idbury Manor, Kingham, Oxford, or through W. H. Smith and Sons.

I cannot resist again drawing attention to this splendid magazine. Apart from its primary value as a country window through which both townfolk and country folk can catch glimpses of the *real* rural England, it will be useful to librarians as an aid to book selection. This number contains an interesting note on Bernard Gilbert, a fine countryman who has recently died. His books were all part of a great "Rural Comedy," but of the fifteen volumes he planned to write, he succeeded in finishing only seven or eight. They should undoubtedly be in every library. I have two review copies of this unique magazine which I shall be glad to send to anyone interested—and everyone ought to be interested. Magazines like *The Countryman* are rare and must not be allowed to die from want of support. I cannot think that this is the fate in store for *The Countryman*, but it behoves us all to recommend a good thing when we see it. It's no use sneering at the pitiful stupidity and sickening fatuity of the syndicated press if we cannot keep alive a journal which is the result of a very real desire to do something to help the English countryside. To achieve this object, and yet to steer clear of sentimentality and to maintain a high literary tone is a great journalistic feat. Please don't forget the review copies, which will be forwarded on request.

F. S. SMITH.

Birmingham Public Libraries : 65th Annual Report.

Adult Education and the Library, Vol. 2, No. 3. June. (A.L.A.).

This issue contains a letter from a woman living in a clearing in the mountains, 90 miles from her County library. She expresses her gratitude for some books of English literature received (she had been taking a correspondence course) and tells how her husband went each day on snowshoes to the mail box to see if the library parcel had arrived. The last trip took three days, the third relay being on horseback, owing to a heavy fall of snow. "One old woodman came eleven miles to borrow a book on precious stones and minerals."

Library Journal, July, August.
Libraries, July.

Contains Dr. Locke's presidential address of 1927.

Borrow House Museum : a brief account of the life of George Borrow and his Norwich home, with a bibliography. By G. A. Stephen, F.L.A., City Librarian, Norwich. (Pp. 32, illus., 6d.; 7d. post free.)

This valuable little pamphlet is in three sections : (1) Sketch of the life of Borrow ; (2) An account of Borrow House ; (3) Bibliography of Borrow. It is worthy of a place in every reference library.

Brooklyn Public Library : Bulletin, July.

Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh : 31st Annual Report, 1926.

Carnegie Monthly Bulletin, July.

Grand Rapids Public Library : Bulletin, May-June.

Changes in Library methods in a changing world. By J. C. Dana, Librarian of Newark : an address.

Pratt Institute Free Library : Quarterly Booklist, Summer, 1927.

Library Review, Summer, 1927. (Annual Subscription 4/-)

This, the second number of the latest addition to professional journals, is enriched by an article from the pen of H. M. Tomlinson on "Dipping into History." This quarterly is so useful and attractive that I doubt if any librarian could resist buying it if it were brought to his notice. Judging by the list of articles promised for future issues, the Editor intends to maintain the present high level of the magazine.

THE DIVISIONS.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the South Coast Division was held at Chichester on Monday, July 11th, when there was a regrettably small attendance, only 14 members being present.

A pleasant afternoon was spent in visiting places of historical interest in the City. The party, after meeting at the old Market Cross, proceeded to St. Olave's Church, which next to the Cathedral is the most interesting church in Chichester. St. Mary's Hospital, an ancient Infirmary and House of Call, founded about 1158 was next visited. This building consists of a hall 83 ft. long with rooms on each side, and a Chapel at the Eastern end. Eight old ladies now live within its walls. From there the party went to Priory Park, the site of a Castle built by Roger Montgomery, and lastly the beautiful little early 17th century chapel at Cawley's Almshouses, was inspected.

Tea was partaken of at the Dolphin and Anchor Hotel, where the business meeting was afterwards held.

The Chair was taken by the retiring Chairman, Mr. E. Male, who moved the adoption of the Annual Report. Reports from Eastern and Western Sections were also read.

The President, Miss E. Gerard, and Mr. Male spoke briefly on the re-organisation of this Division. The Eastern and Western Sections will in future be known as the South Eastern Division and the South Western Division respectively.

The officers for the South Eastern Division for the ensuing year were elected as follows :—

President : Miss E. Gerard (Worthing).

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. A. Hamblyn (Eastbourne).

Hon. Secretary : Miss G. Dean (Worthing).

Hon. Auditor : Miss E. Young (Brighton).

Committee—(One member from each library in the area) : Mr. E. Male (Brighton), Miss K. Hartnup (Eastbourne), Miss E. Clarke (Hastings), Miss Purdue (Hove), Mr. Wilson (Lewes), Miss Fox (Worthing).

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Sec.*

Divisional Report.

Report presented at the 15th Annual Meeting held at Chichester, July 11th, 1927.

The Committee has pleasure in submitting the Fifteenth Annual Report on the work of the Division.

Membership.—The total membership of the Division is 78, and consists of 4 Fellows, 71 Members, and 3 Associate Members. This shows a pleasing increase of 7 over last year's figures.

Officers.—At the last Annual Meeting, Miss E. Gerard, Worthing, was elected to the office of Hon. President, this being the first time in the history

of the Division, that this office has been held by any other than a Chief Librarian. Mr. F. Pepper, Librarian, Winchester, terminated his tenure of the office of Chairman and was succeeded by Mr. E. Male, Brighton. Mr. A. Davis, Librarian Southampton, was elected Vice-Chairman. The other officers, Miss G. Dean and Mr. A. Hamblyn, were re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively. The Committee, consisting of four members from each section (of whom the Sectional Hon. Secretary was one) were elected as follows: Miss Dean (Worthing), Miss Fox (Worthing), and Miss Purdue (Hove), Mr. Webb (Brighton), Miss Kemish (Winchester), Mr. Mourant (Southampton), Miss Richards (Portsmouth), Mr. Summerfield (Portsmouth), together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. Treasurer.

Owing to difficulties in connection with the Railway Strike the Annual General Meeting of the Division which should have taken place in July, had to be postponed until the autumn. It took place at Portsmouth, on October 15th. A very enjoyable motor trip was made in the afternoon through the Meon Valley, a stop being made at the interesting old church at Droxford, and another at Hambledon; in the latter village the visiting members were kindly entertained to tea by the Portsmouth Staff. In the evening the Annual Business Meeting was held at the Carnegie Branch Library, Fratton, and was followed by a short Presidential Address by the new elected President.

The Committee offer their most hearty congratulations to Mr. A. Webb, who has been elected Vice-President of the Association of Assistant Librarians for the year 1927-28. Miss E. Gerard has again been elected as the Divisional Representative to serve on the General Council of the A.A.L.

During the year the question of re-organisation has been very carefully considered, and it was decided that it would be to the better interest of the members generally if the present Division were split into two, and the existing sections re-formed as two distinct divisions. The Committee were of the opinion that before the matter was brought to headquarters the wishes of the members should be known. Accordingly a ballot was held, and while 46 voted for the proposed re-organisation, only 2 accorded their votes against it. As a result the matter was submitted to the Council of the A.A.L., who unanimously agreed that the sections should be re-formed and known as the South-Eastern and South-Western Divisions respectively.

Finance.—The yearly statement of receipts and expenditure is appended. The Hon. Treasurer reports a balance in hand of £8 0s. 6d.

(Signed) E. W. MALE, *Chairman.*
G. L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary.*

Summary of Balance Sheet.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand, 1926 ...	7	10 0	Remitted to Headquarters.	18	10 9
Bank interest for 1925-26 .	0	3 4	Remitted for Benevolent		
Subscriptions ...	28	19 0	Fund ...	1	1 0
			Railway fares for Divisional		
			Committee ...	1	1 0
			Quotas returned to Western		
			Section ...	3	1 5
			Quotas returned to Eastern		
			Section ...	2	2 9
			Hon. Secs. and Hon. Treas.		
			postages and petty		
			cash expenses ...	2	14 11
			Balance in bank, 24th June	8	0 6
	£36	12 4		£36	12 4

Examined and found correct, D. HARMAN.

29th June, 1927.

O. M. IVEY.

NEW MEMBERS.

Associate.—F. Eric Peters (Woolwich).

Members.—Margaret A. Cotter, Henry J. Rengert (Woolwich); Helena Joyce Jones (Bath), F. J. B. Mason (South Audley Street, Westminster), Agnes Norwood (Chesterfield).

North Eastern Division.—Miss J. Lee (Gateshead), G. F. Leighton (Middlesbrough), Mabel Scarth (Stockton).

South Coast (Western) Division.—B. Bennett (Bournemouth).

APPOINTMENTS.

*BLACKMAN, A. J., Assistant, Bethnal Green, to be Senior Assistant, Reading, Salary £245 p.a. (Also selected: F. J. Cooper, Portsmouth and F. S. Engall, Fulham).

*JACKA, Miss Stella, B.A., Asst., Sunderland, to be Senior Asst., Preston. Salary, £130—£10—£160 p.a. (Also selected: I. B. Carliss, B.A., E. Jones, Aberystwyth; W. Dean, Ilkley.)

POWELL, Miss D. P., M.A. (Hons.), Asst. Nat. Lib. of Wales, to be Deputy Librarian, Kent County. Salary £210—£250 p.a. (Also selected: Miss Robinson, Leeds Univ. Lib., Miss Homewood, Croydon.)

*BEATTIE, Miss Margaret, Assistant, Kingston Public Library, to be Assistant Librarian, Derbyshire County Library. Library Association certificates for Literary History, Bibliography, Classification and Cataloguing. Salary, £150.

*THORNE, Winifred K. Assistant at St. Bridge Institute, to be Assistant to the Librarian of the High Commissioner for India.

*GREGSON, Miss G., of Heywood Public Library, to be Librarian, Pontefract.

*SMITH, R. D. Hilton, Chief Assistant, Richmond, to be Branch Librarian, Croydon. (Salary, £250 p.a.)

*TOZER, Eric S., Assistant, Willesden Library, to be Librarian-in-Charge, Harlesden.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. W. G. Fry of Manchester, in connection with my answer to his article on the improvement of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT, has asked me to state that he did not know that his paper was to be published, and that as I did not send him proofs, he had no opportunity of correcting his rough typescript. This I gladly do, and here wish to express my great regret at my inability to send him proofs, owing to the lack of time. Now that members have heard both sides of the question they may like to express themselves further on the subject. I sincerely hope that I shall receive many letters.—HON. EDITOR.

41, NOVA ROAD, CROYDON.

The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

15th July, 1927.

SIR,—Has the policy of the Association of Assistant Librarians undergone a change? I can conceive of no other reason for the publication in the July LIBRARY ASSISTANT of the astounding advertisement of the Borough of Pontefract for a Librarian at the princely salary of £150 per annum. Unless my memory serves me false, there was a time when the Publications Committee would have refused to touch such an advertisement, and the Council would have instructed the Honorary Secretary to send one of his inimitable letters to the perpetrators of this compliment to the dignity of our profession.

I note that the advertisement concludes: "Canvassing will disqualify." A very necessary provision!

I am, etc.,

A. E. CUMMINS.

(Before the above-mentioned advertisement was accepted it was ascertained that Pontefract was a small Rural District of but a few thousand inhabitants. In these circumstances it was thought that the Committee could legitimately accept it. We can assure our old friend, Mr. Cummins, that the policy of the A.A.L. has not changed.—HON. EDITOR.)

PUBLIC LIBRARY,
77, HIGH STREET, WHITECHAPEL, E.1.
July 14th, 1927.

The Editor, THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

DEAR SIR,—I would like, if I may, to make a few remarks on various matters.

I have a copy of Mr. Briscoe's "Library Planning," and I note with regret that he dismisses the question of Children's Libraries with a little reading matter and several photographs, surely this department warrants more than this, especially when the compulsory plan required at the Library Association Organization Examination in May was a plan of a Children's Library.

I am sorry I was unsuccessful in the recent elections, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my supporters.

I would now like to say that I have always been disappointed with our magazine, I think that a short article should be inserted each month on some professional subject by somebody who really knows something about what he or she is writing; for instance, I would like to see Miss Rees give her ideas on Children's Libraries in a brief article.

Yours etc.,

HENRY G. GRAY.

A.S.L.I.B. DIRECTORY.

23rd June, 1927.

DEAR SIR,—May I be allowed through the medium of the press to offer my thanks to all those who have kindly responded to my request for information in connection with the preparation of the Directory of Sources of Specialised Information, and at the same time beg those who could assist but have not yet written to me to do so at once as we are fast approaching the close of our work. I should especially like to be able to include some more collections in the possession of private individuals.

Yours faithfully,

G. F. BARWICK,

General Editor.

LIBRARY REVIEW.

A Popular Quarterly Magazine on Libraries and Literature. "Something new in library journalism." "The magazine of the new outlook." "In your magazine you seem to have struck the new note for which we have been waiting. One feels that it is alive, and if the tone of the first number can be maintained—and I have no doubt it will—its success should be assured, not only among librarians, but among the ever-widening circle of those who are interested in library work and education generally."

In the September Conference number Sir Frederic Kenyon (Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Libraries) will deal with the recent Report. This will be an outstanding article. Other contributors will be Cofl. Mitchell, Lewis Spence, Edward Scouller, R. D. Macleod. The **Books and Bookmen** section contains some of the brightest and best informed book-chat in Britain.

LIBRARY REVIEW.

47, Pitcairn Street, Dunfermline.

4/- per annum, post free. Only annual subscriptions taken.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP — SESSION 1927-28.

Honorary Visitor : Sir FREDERIC GEORGE KENYON, G.B.E., K.C.B.,
M.A. D.Litt.

Director : E. A. BAKER, M.A. D.Litt.

The School provides the following courses :—

1. Full-time Courses.

2. Courses for Part-time Students, both day and evening.

Courses 1. and 2. are for Students reading for the University Diploma in Librarianship, or for the Certificates qualifying for the Diploma of the Library Association.

3. Special Courses.

4. Public and Special Lectures on County Library Systems, library work with children, illustration of books, bookbinding, printing, etc., will be given during the Session.

The Session begins on Monday, 3rd October.

Students wishing to be admitted should apply forthwith to :—

C. O. G. DOUIE, *Secretary*,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON. (Gower Street, W.C.1.)

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER.

EXTRA-MURAL DEPARTMENT — SESSION 1927-28.

Lectures in Librarianship.

Arrangements are under consideration for providing in the Lent Term (January to March, 1928), if there is sufficient response, instruction in the same subjects as those included in the ordinary course of Librarianship of the Library Association, *viz.*, Literary History, Bibliography and Book Selection ; Classification ; Cataloguing ; Library Organisation ; Library Routine.

Fuller particulars from the Director of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Manchester.